



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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RL:0319

## Proposal 813 RELATING TO CONSERVATION

Statement for  
Con Con Committee on Environment, Agriculture,  
Conservation and Land

by  
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Proposal 813 would amend Article X of the Constitution by adding a new section that would establish a quota system for new water hookups. This statement on this proposal does not reflect an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

Proposal 813 was reviewed by the Environmental Center at an earlier hearing as part of a package of Proposals that dealt with Growth Management. Our comments (RL:0302) on Proposal 813 were as follows:

"Proposal 813 would attempt to limit growth by restricting the number of new water hookups. This means would, no doubt tend to curb population growth. It would also have the effects of increasing the price of existing structures which are laready provided with water hookups and of increasing crowding, both socially undesirable."

We wish in this statement to call attention to some special problems that would arise in connection with the provisions of Proposal 813 regarding a quota system for water hookups.

Quotas of water hookups would be allocated to the counties in proportion to their populations. Nature has, however, not allocated water resources to the counties in proportion to their population. The effect of the proposal would be to allow a county with a large population to install a large number of new domestic water service connections, even if the sustainable yield of the water resources have already been approached or exceeded, but to restrict the number of additional service connections in a county with a small population even if its water resources have considerable excess sustainable yield.

The changes in quotas presumably to be made are as changes occur in population distribution. However, the distribution of excess sustainable yield of water resources is only one example of appropriate reasons for allowing flexibility in quotas. For instance, the establishment of a manganese processing industry in the county of Hawaii, which would strengthen materially the economy of that county, might both stimulate and depend upon some shift of population to that county. Immigration to that county would, however, be restricted if the quota of the county, set in accordance with its population before the establishment of the industry.

The proposal this seems unwise, and the inflexibility of such proposals seems inappropriate in the Constitution.